

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Cessna F177RG Cardinal RG, G-LNYS
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming IO-360-A1B6D piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1974
Date & Time (UTC):	23 August 2009 at 1520 hrs
Location:	Etchingwood Lane, Framfield, East Sussex
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - 1 (Minor) Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Damaged beyond economic repair
Commander's Licence:	Airline Transport Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	35 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	8,887 hours (of which 350 were on type) Last 90 days - 173 hours Last 28 days - 96 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Synopsis

The aircraft suffered a loss of power in flight. During the subsequent forced landing the pilot decided that his initial choice of field was unsuitable, so he landed in an adjacent small field. The aircraft was unable to stop within the distance available and entered some trees at the far end. It was extensively damaged and the pilot received a minor injury. His passenger was uninjured and there was no fire.

History of the flight

The aircraft departed from Popham at 1100 hrs, with the pilot and a photographer, the owner of the aircraft, on board. The purpose of the flight was to carry out aerial photography in the local area. The aircraft had been refuelled to full tanks, which gave it an endurance of

approximately six hours. The weather conditions were good, with scattered clouds at 3,000 ft and a westerly wind.

The pilot reported that the aircraft had been flying for about four hours and twenty minutes, with normal engine indications, and was in the cruise at 1,500 ft, returning to Popham, when the engine began to "shudder" and lose power. He attempted to trouble-shoot the problem but was unable to restore power. Although the engine continued to run roughly, the pilot could not maintain level flight, so he initiated a descent, selected a field for a forced landing and declared a PAN on the radio. As the aircraft approached the pilot's initial choice of field, it became apparent to him that it contained livestock and

was, therefore, unsuitable. The surrounding fields were all small and the pilot selected the one that appeared to be the most acceptable. The aircraft landed in the field but was unable to stop in the distance available and entered some bushes and small trees at the far end. The aircraft was extensively damaged but the pilot, who received a minor injury, and the photographer, who was uninjured, were able to vacate the aircraft normally. There was a

smell of fuel around the aircraft after the accident but there was no fire.

The owner of the aircraft commented that he had not experienced any previous problems with the aircraft or its engine. It was reported that an initial examination of the engine could find no obvious reason for the loss of power. The aircraft was scrapped.